(c) the details of achievements made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

WHO warning on Anthrax

58. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Health Organisation (WHO) has urged individuals and organizations to handle mail with care following cases of Anthrax scare in the US and other countries;

(b) whether certain guidelines have been issued in this regard;

(c) the nature of the same;

(d) whether Anthrax cases have been reported during the months of September and October, 2001 in India, and

(e) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b)Yes, Sir.

(c) The guidelines provide information on how to handle a potentially infected mail, how & where to send it for confirmation and what to do what not to do in case the envelope is leaking or has been opened.

(d) No Anthrax cases have been reported during the months of September and October, 2001 in India.

(e) Question does not arise.

Anthrax bacteria

59. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of Anthrax bacteria have been reported in the capital recently and sent to NICD for investigation;

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to fight with the Anthrax bacteria;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of preventive measures Government propose to take to check its spread in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No case of Anthrax bacteria has been reported from the capital. However, between 19th October till 10th November a total of 215 suspected postal envelops have been tested at National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) for Anthrax. Of these negative samples, 148 were from capital.

(c) to (e) Government has initiated the following actions:

(i) A national workshop was conducted at the NICD in September 2001 for developing surveillance mechanism for pathogens with biological warfare potential including that of Anthrax.

(ii) An issue of CD alert (monthly Newsletter of NICD) on bio-terrorism with special reference to Anthrax was circulated in October, 2001 to all the concerned health authorities in different states and Union Territories. The issue also covered the guidelines to be followed during biological war/terrorism and effective handling of suspicious envelops/ package.

(iii) Guidelines for packaging, transportation of clinical specimens and processing protocol in laboratories were circulated to all the Medical Colleges in the country.

(iv) A meeting on chemical and bio-terrorism was organized on 29th October by the Department of Health which was particiapted by the Secretaries of Home & Health, Director of Health Services from various States/Union Territories. The representatives from the States informed the preparatory measures taken by them and assured availability of drugs in adequate quantity to tackle any situation.

(v) National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Delhi has been identified as the nodal agency to for investigation of any specimen suspected for Anthrax.

(vi) A round the clock control room is functioning at NICD from 19th October, 2001 where suspected envelops/packages are being received for tests.

Increasing demand of Physiotherapists

†60. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the demand of Physiotherapists in the country has been increasing because patients fail to make any recovery even after undergoing various types of surgery and as such the necessity for getting physiotherapy treatment is on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment with regard to the required number of physiotherapists in the country in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) Government is conscious of the increasing demand for physiotherapy treatment in the country. However, no specific survey has so far been carried out to assess the requirement.

Recommendations of internal Work Study Report

61. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Internal Work Study of his Ministry had submitted a Report on 28th May, 1993 on work measurement study of Department of Cardiology in RML Hospital (technical posts);

(b) if so, the details thereof and recommendations contained therein;

(c) whether one of the recommendations was for the creation of 23 additional posts in the cadres of STO/STA and ECG Technicians in Cardiology Department;

(d) whether above recommendations pertaining to that Department have not been implemented, so far; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefore and present status of the report particularly in Cardiology Department and by when these will be implemented?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.